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REMARKS

A Notice of Allowance was mailed April 11, 2008; the Issue Fee was paid by the Applicant on July 11, 2008 (received by OIPE July 14, 2008); a Rule 312 Amendment was filed on the same date, which was entered as confirmed in the Miscellaneous Communication mailed July 30, 2008; and an Issue Notification was received by the Applicant's representative on August 18, 2008. Filed concurrently herewith are a Request for Continued Examination, an Amendment, an Information Disclosure Statement, and a Petition to Withdraw from Issue. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 19, 2003; February 4, 2004; February 14, 2004; May 8, 2006; October 30, 2006; April 23, 2007; August 7, 2007; October 16, 2007; and February 1, 2008.

A further Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith and consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 20-33 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 20-33 (Box 2, Notice of Allowability, Paper No. 20080409). Claims 1, 21, 28 and 31 have been amended to correct minor formal matters. In the *Rule 312 Amendment* filed July 11, 2008, the Applicant amended dependent claim 21. Upon subsequent review, the Applicant determined that claim 21 is better presented in its presently amended form, which reverts claim 21 to its previous form. The Applicant regrets any inconvenience in this matter. New claims 34-68 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicant is entitled. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 20-68 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 20, 34 and 54 are independent. For the reasons of record, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

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Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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